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KAPLAN READIES PROBE

Birch Society Quiz Due

The Massachusetts legislature will be asked to order a probe of the John Birch Society, headquartered in Belmont, Rep. Sumner Z. Kaplan (D.) of Brookline declared yesterday.

Kaplan said he would file an order Monday in the House for an investigation of the ultra-conservative anti-Communist society by the

Special Commission on Communism and Subversive Activities as result of adverse publicity of the past two days. The society linked ex-President Eisenhower, his brother and the late Sec. of State Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, head of the super secret U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Z SOLONS IN GROUP

While Kaplan was announcing his intention of seeking an investigation, two Congressmen pronounced they were members of the society.

Rep. Edgar W. Snider, (R.) of California, told a Washington news conference he was a member of the society and charged Communists are promoting a "smear" of the organization. Rep. John H. Rousselot, (R.) of California, said in San Marino, Cal., he is a member and would welcome investigations to clear up misconceptions about the society.

BOUSSELOT TOLD UPI

"That is true; I am a member of the John Birch Society. The reason I joined—I joined last fall—is that in my area the societies I know of are basically study groups; not arm-waving people who run around harassing others.

"I think that full and clear hearings of both the national and state level should be held so that the mysticism of the

society—the cloak of darkness—can be cleared up."

Rousselot said he knew of "several" other members in Congress, but he said he felt they should identify themselves.

"They (society members) meet in small groups to discuss the effect that Communist infiltration has on our country and where it has done so," the freshman congressman added.

Hiestand said in Washington:

"My advice is for people not to sound off before they have all the facts."

ADMITS PARLEY

He said he had talked earlier with the Birch Society founder, retired candy manufacturer, Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Welch founded the society in 1958.

Defense of the organization by Hiestand and Rousselot followed criticism by other Congressmen, who indicated they want an investigation of the society as a result of statements believed aimed at President Kennedy; and charges that former Presidents Truman and Roosevelt had been duped by the Communists.

A spokesman for the society at its Belmont headquarters turned away inquiring newsmen with a "no comment." He said Welch was "not available" and would have "no comment at this time."

The spokesman refused also to comment on a Justice Dept. statement of "concern" about the society, and criticism by Sens. Thomas J. Dodd, (D) Connecticut, and Thomas H. Kuchel, (R) California.

SOLONS SHY

The UPI said from Washington a number of lawmakers shied away from any congressional investigation on grounds the society had a right to state its views even though they might be unpopular.

In New York City, the National Association of Manufacturers disclosed in effect censured the society on a board

mer. NAM presidents listed as members of the council of the council of the society helped draft the resolution which was approved unanimously.

The resolution did not mention the society or Welch by name. It affirmed the NAM's confidence in Eisenhower's loyalty and rejected contacts with any organization that questioned the former President's loyalty integrity.